

INFORMATION BULLETIN

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

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TO: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

SUBJECT: WORLD INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY'S BENEFITS-TO-WORK
CALCULATOR

The purpose of this bulletin is to introduce the World Institute on Disability online benefits planning calculator available at www.db101.org. The calculator helps people with disabilities understand how employment and earnings may affect their eligibility for various cash benefits programs.

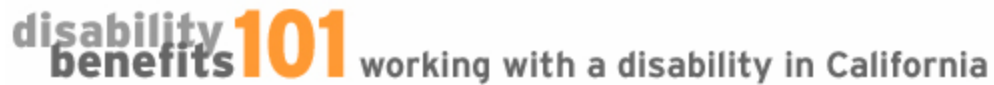
Many people with disabilities cite their fear of losing benefits and services as significant barriers to accepting employment. Due to the complexity of benefits programs eligibility, case managers and counselors in One-Stop Career Centers may be hesitant to advise people with disabilities how their benefits may change when taking a job. The new Benefits-to-Work Calculator allows users to enter information about work plans to determine how benefits may be affected. The calculator is available in English and Spanish, and is completely confidential. The Benefits-to-Work Calculator does not take the place of a qualified benefits planner, but it is a useful tool to use when people with disabilities are considering employment options.

Attached to this bulletin is the World Institute on Disability's press release introducing the Benefits-to-Work Calculator.

The Workforce Investment Division's contact person for this information bulletin is Robin Peguero. You may reach her at rpeguero@edd.ca.gov or (916) 654-0205.

/S/ BOB HERMSMEIER
Chief
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Attachment



For Immediate Release
July 1, 2006

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DB101 Launches Benefits-to-Work Calculator Online

New California Tools for Work 2006

Oakland, CA

Disability Benefits 101 (DB101) at the World Institute on Disability launches its first online benefits planning calculator July 1, available at www.db101.org. When the user gives the calculator information about work plans, the **Benefits-to-Work Calculator** shows how benefits might change when taking a job. This new tool is the first of six calculators planned for launch by the end of 2007 addressing different life situations.

The **Benefits-to-Work Calculator** is easy to use and in plain language (English and Spanish). It's completely confidential too. DB101 is designing the calculator tools for people with disabilities, their families, as well as service providers and the employers who work with them. The design team received input from benefits planners and beneficiaries using public and private benefits in developing the tool.

At a recent community presentation, John Riley, Benefits Counselor at AIDS Project Los Angeles affirmed: *"That calculator is going to help me a lot!"*

The **Benefits-to-Work Calculator** is part of other positive progress this year to improve employment services. The State of California approved its [California Comprehensive Strategy for the Employment of People with Disabilities](#), just as Social Security is funding new grants for statewide Work Incentives Planning and Assistance services.

A new contract with the Social Security Administration will allow DB101 to complete next phases by the end of 2007. DB101 calculator tools are the result of pioneering design and development support since 2002 from the California Department of Rehabilitation, the Employment Development Department, the California Health Incentives Improvement Project, the Community Technology Foundation of California, and The California Endowment. Key design partners are Eightfold Way Consultants, Berkeley, California, and ECONorthwest, Portland, Oregon.